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## Research Project Title

RES2019-09 Developing a Plan to Restore and Enhance Native Habitats for Pollinators Along Tennessee's Interstate and Highway Systems

## Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the project is to identify and document high quality pollinator and grassland habitat along Tennessee's highways, install a demonstration prairie on an interstate exit, develop grassland education material, and create a vegetation management plan for grasslands habitats in each region of the state.

## Scope and Significance

The scope of the research project includes:

- Training citizen scientists how to recognize grassland ecosystems, how to conduct rapid ecological assessments, and how to document these habitats
- Surveying the highway system for known grassland remnants
- Developing a management plan specific to each physiographic region of Tennessee for how to better manage and restore pollinator and grassland habitat in the state.
- Developing educational and outreach materials to be displayed electronically or through informational kiosks and brochures at welcome centers and rest areas.

## Expected Outcomes

The following are expected outcomes of this research project:

- TDOT will have the opportunity to be a national leader in addressing problems related to habitat loss and biodiversity decline.
- An increased number of sensitive natural areas along Tennessee's highways will be protected and managed appropriately
- More people will be educated about the conservation issues surrounding biodiversity loss

## Time Period

The time period for the project is December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2020.

## Contact Information

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